

We have people in the richest country in the world, a country where 1 out of every 33 persons is a millionaire, we have people living in poverty and working full time. No one should work full time and live below the poverty line.

We need to pass the Living American Wage Act, the LAW Act. The living wage should be the law.

WE CANNOT ALLOW OUR DOMESTIC ENERGY SOURCES TO WASTE AWAY

(Mrs. CAPITO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, today the House will consider legislation that makes clear that our major obstacle to lowering prices is a shortage of supply. Yet, this House will not act on any legislation that will actually increase our Nation's overall energy supply.

It's time for this Congress to get serious about both protecting consumers and taking action on real solutions that will ease the pain at the pump.

I hear from West Virginians on a regular basis who can no longer afford the price of gasoline. Just yesterday, I spoke to several West Virginia seniors. They're concerned. They're making tough decisions. And on fixed incomes, they're very troubled when they have to go to the gas station to fill up their cars.

West Virginians deserve a truly comprehensive, all-of-the-above approach to our energy challenges to become energy independent. We need legislation that leads to new refineries, new technology, and new energy exploration, not these weak attempts that are only wanting to change the topic.

With gas prices at more than \$4 a gallon, we simply cannot afford to deliberately allow our domestic energy resources to waste away.

AUTISM

(Mr. DOYLE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DOYLE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to correct the misinformation about autism that shock jock Michael Savage spread on his syndicated radio show last week.

Mr. Savage claimed that many diagnosed cases of autism were fraudulent, and that, "In 99 percent of the cases, it's a brat who hasn't been told to cut out the act. They don't have a father around to tell them, 'Don't act like a moron.'"

Madam Speaker, I've known a number of families dealing with autism over the years, and I can tell you unequivocally that none of the children with autism I've met fit that deplorable description.

But don't take my word for it. There have been decades of peer-reviewed, scientific research on autism, and the

evidence is clear. Autism spectrum disorders are real, and they affect over 1 million Americans today.

Mr. Speaker, I suggest, if Mr. Savage wants to find someone acting like a moron, he should simply look in the mirror.

NUCLEAR ENERGY

(Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, in the past few weeks the focus of the energy crisis conversation has been about lifting the offshore ban on drilling to increase oil and gas supplies in the U.S., and offshore drilling is one solution that can help ease the energy crisis and lower gas prices at the pump.

However, there's also been talk about using alternative energy sources to solve our energy problems for the long term. The Department of Energy found that in the United States 103 nuclear units supply about 20 percent of the electricity produced here in the United States.

And in my home State of South Carolina, 52 percent of our State's power comes from nuclear power plants. For years, I've worked with organizations and companies within South Carolina to promote the benefits of nuclear power. Nuclear is clean, safe, and it's accessible in our country.

Nuclear energy is an alternative energy source that our country can use to create long-term energy solutions for generations to come. It's a real solution that, if we invest now, will help us bridge from a short-term solution to a long-term solution.

DEMOCRATS ARE PROVIDING SOLUTIONS TO AMERICA'S ENERGY CRISIS

(Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland. Madam Speaker, two people are most responsible in this country for record-high gas prices: President Bush and Vice President CHENEY. When the oil barons came to Washington in 2001, the Vice President opened the doors of the White House and held top secret meetings with their executives to draft the administration's energy plan.

Then congressional Republicans helped them pass that plan into law in 2005, and now, here we are 3 years later, Big Oil is reaping billions in profits while the American consumer is left squeezed at the pump. And now, President Bush and Republicans in Congress have the audacity to blame this Democratic Congress for record-high gas prices. For shame.

Since day one, we've rejected the failed policies of the past, and instead, as Democrats, we're providing real solutions to America's energy crisis. We've repealed subsidies to Big Oil,

cracked down on price gouging, and invested in clean and renewable energy.

We also forced President Bush to stop filling the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, and it's time now for the President to release that oil to consumers from the reserve.

We're not done. As Democrats, we're going to tie our energy policy to economic development by making green jobs good jobs, especially for vulnerable communities.

THE ENERGY PROBLEM IS ONE WE CAN SOLVE

(Mrs. BLACKBURN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, the President lifted the executive ban on offshore oil and natural gas exploration last week, and now Congress, this Democrat-led Congress, is what stands in the way of increased domestic supply and lower prices.

Well, instead of taking steps toward a solution, the House Democrat leadership has said "no" to the American people: go buy a hybrid, take a subway to work. Well, in my Seventh District of Tennessee, that doesn't work, because mass transit is not there.

Congress should open up ANWR, the Outer Continental Shelf, and should promote the construction of oil refineries and nuclear power plants. We need a short-, a mid-range and long-term solution. We should provide tax incentives for American families to purchase more fuel-efficient vehicles and to promote energy innovation and efficiency.

Republicans have offered a bill that includes all of the above, promoting American-made energy in the short-, mid-, and long-range plan.

Let's solve this problem, Madam Speaker. It requires action now.

MINIMUM WAGE

(Mrs. MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, today, millions of workers will be getting a much-deserved raise.

In the first 100 days of this New Direction Congress, we voted to raise the wage floor for workers nationwide. Today, the Federal minimum wage goes to \$6.55 per hour. This raise was long overdue.

Prior to passage of this legislation, the minimum wage had sunk to its lowest point in over half a century. Most minimum wage workers are adults, many of whom are the sole breadwinners for their families.

Families are being squeezed by the rising costs for basic necessities and wages that are failing to keep pace. I call this economy the stag-gas-food-inflation economy; stagnant wages, many workers have lost up to \$1,200 since this administration took office; rising gas and food prices; and now inflation.